## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 28, 2005

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## EMERSON PROPOSES FAIR TAX BREAK

## Demands Relief for Low-wage Workers

LANSING – Senate Democratic Leader Bob Emerson (Flint) stood firm for Michigan's families today when he vowed that his caucus would not support business tax cuts if no tax relief is given to low-income workers.

Michigan consistently ranks among the top 10 regressive tax states in the country, further plunging low-income taxpayers into poverty. Senate Democrats have proposed legislation that would create a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers.

"We need to cut taxes for those on the lower economic scale," Sen. Emerson said. "We won't support business tax cuts if they're not tied to relief for workers who support their families and their state despite low wages, regressive taxes, costly healthcare and decreased services."

Senate Democrats advocate that a state EITC would stimulate local economies by providing disposable income for consumer goods purchases. The combination of a federal and a state EITC could close the poverty gap for welfare recipients who have joined the workforce.

Currently, 15 states and the District of Columbia offer EITCs. Data from these states show that tax relief for low-income wage earners move them and their families above the poverty line.

"Some state lawmakers have sought to protect our families through pontification on courtship, marriage and divorce," Sen. Emerson said. "We assert that our families be protected through financial empowerment."

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